

BUMED Oral History Project
CAPT Tracy Malone, Nurse Corps, USN, Retired
Synopsis and Glossary

Date and Location of Interview: 29 May 2015, Defense Health Headquarters, Falls Church, VA

Interviewer: Mr. André Sobocinski, Historian, BUMED

Synopsis:

Captain Malone grew up in Middleton, Massachusetts, one of five children to a school teacher and a librarian. She attended St. Anselm College and majored in nursing before joining the Navy in 1978. Malone credits the James Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific* and the film adaptation (1958) as inspiration for becoming a Navy nurse.

Following Officer Indoctrination School in Newport, RI, Malone was assigned to the Naval Medical Regional Center, Portsmouth, VA where she worked in female surgery and pediatric surgery. In 1982, Captain Malone was assigned to Naval Hospital Jacksonville, FL where she worked in pediatric surgery and the ER. During her tenure there she would meet and help mentor a young, hard-charging Corpsman named Jess Beamon. Years later while visiting the Beirut Memorial Auditorium in Bethesda, MD, Malone would learn that Beamon was serving with the Marine Corps when he was killed in the Beirut Bombing of 23 October 1983.

In 1984, Captain Malone was selected for duty in the White House Medical Unit (WHMU). She recalls serving on Ronald Reagan's second inaugural on 21 January 1985, a day so cold that most of the outside activities were cancelled. Malone tells a wonderful story of how the Commander-in-Chief took looked after his support staff even chiding Malone for not wearing her coat in the frigid temperatures.

Following her tour in the WHMU, Captain Malone left the Navy and went to the University of Colorado where she taught nursing and worked briefly on the Gary Hart presidential campaign. She returned to the Navy in 1988 serving at the Health Sciences Education and Training Command (HSETC). From 1990 to 1992, she served in the Office of Reserve Affairs at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) where she was involved in the largest recall of medical reservists since World War II. Malone then served in the BUMED Office of Legislative Affairs (1992-1994) before being selected to serve as Executive Assistant to VADM Harold Koenig, Surgeon General of the Navy (1994-1997). Captain Malone was the first nurse and first woman to serve in this position.

Captain Malone would complete her military career working in medical policy first at Tri-Care Management Activity (TMA) in Falls Church, VA and later at the Office of the Assistant for the Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs). Malone retired from the Navy in 2004.

Key Acronyms:

BUMED—Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
G7—Group of Seven
HSETC—Naval Health Sciences Education and Training Command
NARF—Naval Air Rework Facility
NAS—Naval Air Station
O&R—Overhaul and Repair
RHRP—Reserve Health Readiness Program
TMA—TRICARE Management Activity
WHMU—White House Medical Unit

Key Figures:

Barnes, Paula, CAPT, NC, USN—Paula Barnes served 23 years in the Navy Nurse Corps, 13 on active duty and 10 in the reserves. During her career she served as a Navy nurse recruiter and the assistant director for the Navy Nurse Corps.

Beamon, Jessie W., Hospitalman—Jessie W. Beamon was born in Haines City, FL in 1963. Beamon was killed in the Beirut Bombing on 23 October 1983.

Chu, David S.C., PhD—Undersecretary of Defense for Health and Readiness, 2001–2008.

Cowan, Michael, VADM, MC, USN, Surgeon General, 2001–2004.

Faison, C. Forrest, VADM, MC, USN—Admiral Faison served as the Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton (2007–2009), and Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA (2010–2012). Since 2013, Admiral Faison has been serving as the Deputy Surgeon General, BUMED, Falls Church, VA (2013–2015). Appointed Surgeon General of the Navy in December 2015.

Haller, Henry (1923–)—served as Executive Chef for five presidents, Lyndon Johnson to Ronald Reagan (1966–1987).

Hart, Gary (1936–)—U.S. senator from Colorado (1975–1987). Hart ran for president in 1984 and 1988.

Horoho, Patricia, Lt. Gen., NC, USA—Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, 2011–2015. She is the first woman and first nurse to serve in this role.

Horoho, Ray, COL, USA, Retired—Husband of Surgeon General Horoho.

Koenig, Harold, VADM, MC, USN—Navy Surgeon General, 1995–1998.

Mateczun, John, VADM, MC, USN, Retired—Commander, Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical, (JTF-CAPMED), 2007-2012. President, United Health Group, 2012-Present.

Mayo, Richard A., RADM, MC, USN—Deputy Director, Tri-Care Management Activity, 2001-2005.

Michener, James (1907-1997)—American author of over 40 books, including many sagas.

Nielubowicz, Mary, RADM, NC, USN (1928-2009)—director of the Navy Nurse Corps, 1983-1987.

Ruge, Daniel, MD (1917-2005)—Ruge served as President Reagan's primary physician from 1981 to 1985. He was the oldest physician to serve a sitting president. He was a student and later medical partner of Nancy Reagan's stepfather, Loyal Davis.

Reagan, Ronald (1911-2004), President of the United States (1981-1989).

Sears, H. James (Jim) T., RADM (ret.) MC, USN, Retired—Executive Director, Tri-Care Management Activity, 1998-2001. Sears served in the Navy from 1964 to 1989.

Speakes, Larry (1939-2014)—Press Spokesman for President Reagan from 1981 to 1987.

Wright, Marilyn, LCDR NC, USN—stationed at the White House from 1982 to 1985.

Winkenwerder, William, MD, Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, 2001-2007.

Wyatt, Ed, Jr., CAPT, MSC, USN, Retired—Wyatt served in the Navy Medical Service Corps from 1975 to 2003. From 1987 to 1995, he served in the Legal Affairs Office at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. He returned to BUMED in 1997 where he served as the Head of Medical Plans and Policy Division (1995-1997).

Glossary:

1984 Presidential Campaign—Campaign between Ronald Reagan and Democrat Walter Mondale. Reagan carried 49 U.S. States and captured 525 electoral votes to win a second term in office.

Beirut Bombing—At 6:20 am on 23 October 1983, a truck bomb detonated outside the First Battalion, Eighth Marines Landing Team Headquarters (1/8 BLT) at the Beirut International Airport. The resulting blast killed 220 Marines, 18 Navy Sailors and three Soldiers.

Bitburg Controversy of May 1985—President Reagan made a ceremonial visit to the Kolmeshöhe Military Cemetery in Bitburg, Germany containing the graves of 2,000 soldiers including Nazis.

Cancellation of inauguration—scheduled for January 21, 1985. Temperatures in Washington, D.C. hovered around zero degrees Fahrenheit forcing the cancellation of most of the outside events.

Challenger Disaster—Space Shuttle *Challenger* explosion occurred on 28 January 1986 within 73 seconds into its flight.

The Cremation of Sam McGee—Legendary poem by Robert Service (1874–1958) published in 1907 about the cremation of a prospector in the Yukon Territory.

The Fisher House Foundation—started by philanthropist Zachary Fisher in 1982, builds temporary lodging facilities that are available without charge for military members, their families and military veterans. The first Fisher House opened at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, on 29 June 1990. As of 2015 there were 65 Fisher Houses in the U.S. and Europe.

G7 (Group of Seven) Economic Summit—annual forums to discuss and resolve differences among its members the seven industrialized nations—United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, France, Italy and Germany.

Gulf War (Desert Storm/Desert Shield)—2 August 1990–3 August 1991: includes Operation Desert Shield, 2 August 1990–17 January 1991, and Operation Desert Storm (ODS), 17 January 1990–28 February 1991.

HSETC (Health Sciences Education and Training Command)—a vestige of the Navy Medical School, the command operated as HSETC from 1973 to 1995 when it was renamed the Naval School of Health Sciences (NSHS). In 2002, it was redubbed the Naval Medical and Education Training Command (NMETC).

James J. Rowley Training Center (JJRTC)—training facility operated by the Secret Service and designed for special agents, Uniformed Division officers, special officers, physical security specialists and others. In a single year, the center offers extensive training in firearms marksmanship, use-of-force/control tactics, emergency medical techniques, financial crimes detection, physical/site/event protection and water survival training. (source: http://www.secretservice.gov/about_rtc.shtml)

Mayport—home to the Naval Station commissioned in December 1942. Mayport serves as the base of operations for the U.S. Navy's 4th Fleet.

Memorials, Beirut—Among the 18 Sailors killed in the bombing were 15 Hospital Corpsmen and one Navy Medical Officer. The names of these fallen Medical Department personnel were later memorialized in

granite on the Beirut Memorial located at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, NC. The "Memorial Auditorium" located at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center was also named in their honor.

Middleton, MA—town in northeastern Massachusetts first settled in 1659 and incorporated in 1728. Middleton was originally part of Salem.

Newport Creamery—Chain of restaurants located in New England. Its flagship location was established in Middletown, R.I, in 1940.

Overhaul and Repair (O&R) facilities were built at NAS Jacksonville to "rework" the station's planes. It would later be renamed Naval Air Rework Facility Jacksonville (NARF Jax), and Naval Aviation Depot Jacksonville (NADEP Jax), Presently it is known as the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast.

President's Ranch—Rancho del Cielo or Sky Ranch, located northwest of Santa Barbara was the vacation home of President and Mrs. Reagan. It was owned by the Reagans from 1974 until 1998 when it was sold to Young America's Foundation.

Reagan's Colon Surgery— In March 1985, during a routine colonoscopy at the National Naval Medical center, a polyp was found in Reagan's colon with trace amounts of blood in his stool. On 12 July, Reagan underwent endoscopic removal of the polyp and colonoscopy which revealed a second, more dangerous tumor that could only be removed by surgery. Reagan decided to have the surgery the next day. The operation lasted 2 hours and 53 minutes. (source: www.doctorzebra.com/prez/g40.htm).

Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP)— Department of Defense, Defense Health Agency program that helps to supplement the Reserve Components' readiness mission and satisfy key deployment requirements by providing medical and dental services to all Reserve Component forces through: Periodic Health Assessment (PHA); Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA); and Individual Medical Readiness (IMR) services (source: www.health.mil).

September 11th, 2001—Nearly 3,000 people were killed on 9 September 2011 in four coordinated suicide attacks by al Qaeda terrorists using hijacked commercial airliners. Two airliners were flown into the World Trade Center, New York City; a third attacked the Pentagon and a fourth designated for the U.S. Capitol, crashed into a field near Shanksville, PA after passengers attempted to take control of the plane. Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaeda leader claimed responsibility for ordering the attack. He was killed by U.S. forces in a raid in Pakistan on 2 May 2011.

South Pacific—Broadway musical (1949) and later film (1958) based on James Michener's book, *Tales of the South Pacific* (1947). Story focuses on

a Navy nurse ENS Nellie Forbush (Mary Martin on stage/Mitzi Gaynor on screen) and French planter Emile de Becque (Ezio Pinza on stage/Rossano Brazzi on screen) set on a South Pacific island in 1943.

St. Anselm's College—Catholic Benedict college founded in 1889 and located in Goffstown, NH.

Tailhook Scandal—incident that took place at the annual Tailhook Association Symposium at the Las Vegas Hilton in Nevada in 8-12 September 1991 in which over 100 Navy and Marine aviation officers sexually assaulted 83 women and 7 men. Scandal lead to the cessation of careers for over 300 officers including 14 admirals.

"The Tower"— Naval Hospital Bethesda Tower served as the location of the Presidential Unit and VIP Suite.

United Healthcare Military and Veterans— company offers the full spectrum of health benefit programs for individuals, employers, military service members, retirees and their families, and Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and contracts directly with more than 800,000 physicians and care professionals and 6,000 hospitals and other care facilities nationwide. Globally, UnitedHealthcare serves 45 million people in health benefits and is one of the businesses of UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH), a diversified Fortune 50 health and well-being company. (source: www.unitedhealthgroup.com).

USS *Intrepid* (CV-11), a former World War II aircraft carrier that was originally destined for the scrapyard, would later become the centerpiece of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City. It is presently the world's largest naval museum.

Voice of America—official external broadcaster of the U.S. Federal Government and founded in 1942.

White House Military Office includes the White House Communications Agency (WHCA), Presidential Airlift Group, White House Medical Unit, Camp David, Marine Helicopter Squadron One, Presidential Food Service, and Whitehouse Transportation Agency.